Claims;

What is claimed;

1. A surfactant compositions which comprises a mixture of compounds conforming to the following structures:

(a)

O / \ RO-(H)C
$$C(H)$$
- CH_2 - OR^4 | | R³O-(H)C $C(H)$ - OR^1 | C / \ OR^2 H

wherein;

R is alkyl having 8 to 22 carbon atoms;

 $R^1,\,R^2,\,R^3.$ and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of

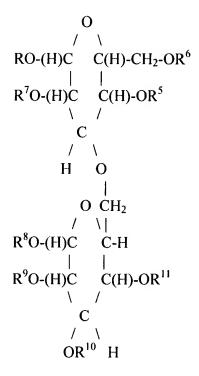
$$\hbox{-CH$_2$-CH(OH)-CH$_2$-N-(CH$_2$CH$_2$OH)$_2}$$

-CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N
$$^{+}$$
-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂ $|$ CH₂C(O)-O $^{-}$

and H, with the proviso that R^1 , R^2 , R^3 . and R^4 are not all H;

and

(b)



wherein;

R is alkyl having 8 to 22 carbon atoms;

 R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 ; R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂

-CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N
$$^+$$
-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂ | CH₂C(O)-O $^-$

and H, with the proviso that R^5 , R^6 , R^7 . R^8 , R^9 R^{10} and R^{11} are not all H.

- 2. A surfactant compositions of claim 1 wherein;
- R^1 , R^2 , R^3 . and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂

and H, with the proviso that R¹, R², R³. and R⁴ are not all H;

and

 R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 ; R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of -CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂

and H, with the proviso that R^5 , R^6 , R^7 . R^8 , R^9 R^{10} and R^{11} are not all H.

- 3. A surfactant compositions of claim 1 wherein
- R¹, R², R³. and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

-CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N
$$^{+}$$
-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂ $|$ CH₂C(O)-O $^{-}$

and H, with the proviso that R¹, R², R³. and R⁴ are not all H;

and

R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸; R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of

-CH₂-CH(OH)-CH₂-N
$$^+$$
-(CH₂CH₂OH)₂ $|$ CH₂C(O)-O $^-$

and H, with the proviso that R^5 , R^6 , R^7 . R^8 , R^9 R^{10} and R^{11} are not all H.

- 4. A surfactant compositions of claim 2 wherein R is C₁₂H₂₅.
- 5. A surfactant compositions of claim 2 wherein R is $C_{10}H_{21}$.
- 6. A surfactant compositions of claim 2 wherein R is C₂₂H_{42.}
- 7. A surfactant compositions of claim 3 wherein R is C₁₂H₂₅
- 8. A surfactant compositions of claim 3 wherein R is $C_{10}H_{21}$.
- 9. A surfactant compositions of claim 3 wherein R is C₂₂H_{42.}